

December 23, 2005



Mike Barton, DOT&PF Commissioner
3132 Channel Dr.
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The draft 2006-2008 Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan programs **zero** funds for Dillingham community transportation projects; Dillingham has supported the STIP process and our road projects are long-planned, have local, regional, and demonstrated state (via previous STIPs) support.

The draft STIP includes only two of Dillingham's previously recognized projects in FFY09 these are - the Wood River Road Reconstruction (Project ID 9548) and the Downtown Streets Reconstruction and Rehabilitation (Project ID 16030). The Kanakanak Resurfacing project (Project ID 16031) was completely eliminated from the STIP. I request inclusion of all three of these projects and that funding for be restored to a level that doesn't short circuit progress over the next three years.

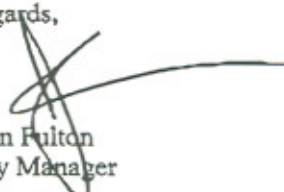
Both the Wood River Road and Downtown Streets Rehab projects were allocated funds in the 2004-2006 STIP. The Wood River Road project had \$1.2M programmed and **zero** funds were obligated. The Downtown Street Rehab had \$625,000 programmed and only \$255,000 was obligated. It is difficult to understand why ADOT deemed it valid to program funds for these projects in the former STIP yet no funds were obligated, and, somehow determined that forward funding wasn't necessary until FFY09 leaving the community and the state nothing to show for the money already spent by ADOT.

Dillingham secured a federal earmark of \$800,000 for the Wood River Road project in 2002 to advance this project. According to ADOT staff, the earmark was spent first; it was not programmed into the STIP as match. I have been informed by ADOT, time after time, that if the City brought match funds to the table that it would increase the prospect of future STIP funding. The draft 2006-2008 STIP doesn't support community participation and furthermore, what accountability is there within ADOT for funds already spent from the federal earmark provided on behalf of the community?

Funds were programmed in the 2004-2006 STIP for Dillingham road projects based on their merit. I understand that the STIP is a dynamic document and changes often however; I would like to offer that if funds are programmed that ADOT staff do everything possible to get those funds obligated. And if this means that ADOT contracts out to move projects along, then I support that and stand ready to complete the projects. **Zero** funds have been programmed for Dillingham road projects at no fault of our own.

It's taken a lot of time, energy, public process, and citizen involvement to get these projects to where they are today and I believe that ADOT's credibility is at stake. I thank you for your time and consideration and welcome further discussion on these matters.

Regards,


John Fulton
City Manager

cc Senator Lyman Hoffman, Representative Carl Moses,
Governor Frank Murkowski, Senator Ted Stevens, Representative Don Young

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CITY OF DILLINGHAM

Dillingham, Alaska

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-54

Support Dillingham Road Projects STIP Funding

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION OF DILLINGHAM ROADS PROJECTS IN THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 2006-2008 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND REQUESTS FUNDS PROGRAMMED FOR FY06, FY07, AND FY08.

WHEREAS, the recently issued draft 2006-2008 Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) proposes programming zero funds until FFY09 for two road projects in Dillingham - the Wood River Road Reconstruction (Project ID 9548) and the Downtown Streets Reconstruction and Rehabilitation (Project ID 16030), and

WHEREAS, the Kanakanak Resurfacing (Project ID 16031) project was omitted from the draft 2006-2008 STIP, and

WHEREAS, these projects have strong support in the community with all three being included in the Curyung Tribal Council's Long Range Transportation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Wood River Road and Downtown Street Rehab projects are both included as priorities on the City's FY06 Capital Improvement Project Plan, and

WHEREAS, all three road projects have been included in the STIP for years, are a part of the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan, and all meet the goals of Dillingham's Comprehensive Plan to provide safe and efficient transportation and pedestrian facilities, and

WHEREAS, DOT has made an effort to progress on the Wood River Road and Downtown Streets projects and programming zero funds until FY09 will short circuit momentum, and

WHEREAS, a continued stream of programmed STIP funds will ensure forward progress on these important road projects, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council supports the inclusion of Wood River Road Reconstruction, Downtown Streets Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, and the Kanakanak Resurfacing road projects in the 2006-2008 STIP and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council staunchly encourages DOT to program STIP funds for these road projects in FY06, FY07, and FY08 so as to not short circuit progress.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of December, 2005.

Seal:



for Ida M. Backford, City Clerk


Chris Napoli, Mayor